SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

EDITORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON CURRENT TOPICS-COMPILED EVERT DAY FOR THE EVERING TELEGRAPH.

A NEED FOR MORE LIGHT. From the N. Y. Tribune.

The character, resources, and capacity for sustaining human life in that portion of the United States lying along the 41st parallel, or on the line of the railroad now nearly comor on the line of the railroad now nearly com-pleted from Omaha to San Francisco, and for perhaps a hundred miles on each side, is now, after an occupancy of several years, only beginning to be understood. But of that region along the 35th parallel, or on the line of the proposed Southern Continental route, the public has only a faint idea, while of a large portion of that vast region between Min-peacta and Oregon little more is known than nesota and Oregon little more is known than in the days of Lewis and Clark. It may seem surprising in this age that so long a time is required to ascertain the value of the new parts of our country for agriculture and kindred purposes, notwithstanding there is no lack of scientific and other explorations; and we are told what game what minerals, and what natural curiosities abound long before a thought seems bestowed on the question as to whether the country is or is not fitted for civilized abode. This want of observation in a direction of general use to mankind is due, in part, to the limited time that can be devoted to surveys of regions which furnish neither shelter, food, nor protection, but more is due to a want of ability in the explorer to see and to understand that which is before his eyes. A miner, a hunter, or a vagabond is, of course, incapable of seeing what obvious or latent powers for sustaining human life a country contains; the military man is wholly intent upon other business, while the scientific man is blinded to all objects except to such as specially relate to his studies—to botany, geelogy, natural history, or astronomy. Accordingly, we have the names of flowers and plants, of rocks, the insects, the birds, and the latitude and longitude are given of those wild regions, as the only information worthy of being imparted to the cultivator of the soil, who adventures forward, guided by the hearsay of those more ignorant than himself, to make trial by long labors, and per-haps with the loss of his life, that facts of vast importance to the race may be accertained. It is but fair, also, to add that many men who are called practical, but this only with reference to limited localities, are little to be depended upon, because when they visit regions where climate, soil, and the geological features differ from any they are acquainted with, they give opinions which may do immense harm, for the reason that, being prac-tical men, their judgment is supposed to be

However great may be the scientific and literary knowledge of travellers, they seldom impart valuable information with reference to common subjects which the mass of mankind so much desire to learn, and this whether they are Americans who visit the Old World, or Europeans who visit the New. The same is to be said of those who successively have ex-plored our new Territories, and for the most part they have agreed in making state-ments which have been proved to be false. Thus it is within the memory of many now living that the malaria made Michigan uninhabitable; that the absence of timber con-demned Iowa and Central Illinois to eternal solitude; and that beyond the Missouri lay the American Desert, equal in extent and sterility to the Great Sahara of Africa. On the contrary, those regions which were most highly praised have been found comparatively poor. With such statements before us for the past, we are inclined to doubt whether the accounts we now receive of alkali and sage-bush plains, and of long jorandas without water, are really destined to everlasting barrenness, and we venture to prophesy that by far the largest portion of the vast interior will be found eminently productive, and as capable of sustaining an enlightend population as those States which formerly were considered unfit for other occupants than outcasts and vermin.

Still, we do want facts, or, if nothing better can be had in the absence of experiments, probabilities, from capable men-that is, from travellers, whe, having eyes, can see, and, understanding, can understand. We grant that such are not likely to come from any of our colleges, nor from our workshops or farms; and it would seem that they could be fitted in no other way than by broad, inde-pendent self-culture, which shall embrace a knowledge of the literary, scientific, and prac-tical, to which are to be added close observations made through many degrees of latitude, that they may make comparisons. The Greeks did not consider education completed until one had travelled; with us, so much more is required that one must travel before he is fitted to be a traveller.

THE NEW INDIAN COMMISSIONER.

From the N. Y. World. The law of 1832, amended by that of 1849, provides that the President may appoint, by consent of the Senate, a Commissioner of Indian Affairs, who shall direct and manage all matters arising out of Indian relations, "agreeably to such regulations as the President may, from time to time, prescribe." This last provision makes it a matter of little consequence which department, whether War or Interior, attests and carries out the regulations of the President. His will, in either case, controls in executing the laws of Con-

The nomination of Colonel Parker to this important office marks a new point of departnre in Indian matters. It does not create the beginning of a new order of things, it signalizes the epoch which began with the four-teenth amendment of the Federal Constitution.

Colonel Parker is an Indian by birth, and hereditary chief of six nations. If that be his condition, he was not, in mere right of homebirth, a citizen of the United States; for Indians, as a general rule, were not, up to the assumed ratification of the fourteenth amendment, citizens, but were subjects. This has been judicially decided in several of the States over and over again. Existing natur-alization laws did not reach Indians, for those laws apply to foreigners, subjects of another allegiance. Therefore an Indian could not pre-empt public lands. It was incapacity of his race which nothing but amendment of the Constitution, a treaty, or a special act of Congress could remove. A State could make Indians voters and its citizens, but all that, heretefore, did not make them Federal citizens. Even an admixture of the blood of the white race up to the of the white race up to the point of eradicating the copper color, would not enable the person to be a citizen of the United States so as to preempt public lands, unless he ceased his tribal relations. He could not be at the same time, under our law, an Indian and a white man. This legal distinction between the two races is marked by a hundred treaties and statutes. The Indians on our continent have been wards, pupils, and dependants of the white race. The title to their lands was subordinated to the European discoverers, their heirs and assigns. They were inde-pendent tribes, and yet dependent allies, sub-ject to our jurisdiction, but owing no alle-giance to our Constitution, and therefore in-

States, and yet all commerce and trade with them was, under the Federal Constitution, to be regulated by Congress. Such was the legal condition of Colonel Parker up to July 28, 1868, when was declared ratified the amendment which said:—

"All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens thereof and of the State wherein they

This amendment not only makes all native-born Indians Federal citizens, but makes those residing in New York citizens of this State. How can the Pederal Government now make more treaties with its own citizens? Hence forth Indians are to be governed by laws. Therefore, Colonel Parker may be a commis-

SANFORD AND SPAIN.

From the N. Y. World. What sort of encouragement has a true patriot to serve his country? Here is Mr. Sanford, agent for many sewing machines and experienced in the ways of courts, who, in the face of the obvious advantages to be derived by a sewing machine manufacturer from the multiplication of garments and of the prejudice of effete Europe in favor of fine clothes, did heroically resolve (he being then Secretary of the American Legation at Paris) to go tary of the American Legation at Paris) to go to court in the "simple black pantaloons of an American gentleman." The American press rang at the time with the praises of this self-denying young diplomat. All the world wondered how a good-looking young gentleman some six feet high could make up his mind to sacrifice the superb opportunity afforded him by the short breeches and silk stockings of European court draws for displaying his contracts. European court-dress for displaying his understanding and making the most of his

Years have passed on. The secretary of 1850 in Paris has become a minister of 1869 in Brussels. The black pantaloons in which he, 'golitary and alone," then braved the eyeglasses and the scorn of an Old World steeped to the lips in precedents and forms, now clothe the nether limbs of all Columbia's sons, to whatever clime assigned. The suspenders of Sanford are the living law to-day of diplomatio American costume from China to Peru.

But what boots it all? The name of Sanford is sent into the Senate for promotion from Brussels to Madrid, from the revolted Flemish city to the capital of the kingdom of Ferdinand and Philip II. And lo! instead of applance and assent, the nomination is received by the radical press with looks askance and words of scorn! Sanford is derided as a mere diplomatic tailor; a man who has made his way in the world by the soissors and the carving-knife. The venerable Amphitryon, says Molière, is the Amphitryon with whom we dine. And the radical journals aver that the only explanation of the existence of Sanford in the Diplomatic Corps of the United States is to be found in the facts that Senators have dined with him, that Senators' wives have received from him Kala Kagatha, lovely laces, and shawls of price-good things from the looms of Flanders, fair things from the

workshops of Lyons. Is not this the height of republican ingratitude? It is true that the state of our public relations with Spain is just now rather exci-ting and uncertain. It is true that, if ever we needed at a European court a representative capable of understanding both the rights and the duties of his country, we need such a representative now at the court of Madrid. But s it not equally true that we need now more than ever before a President at Washington who is capable of understanding the condition and the needs of the country? Is it not equally true that we need now more than ever before a President at Washington who shall be governed in his high office by public rather than by private considerations, by a sense of what needs rather than by a sense of what will make things pleasant at bed and board to himself? Have we such a President at Washington? Is there a radical in all the land (not appointed to office) who will dare to say to day that we have such a President? And who gave us the President we actually have? And why did they give us this Presi-

dent? The radicals inflicted Mr. Grant upon us because they thought that he was the only man they could possibly contrive to inflict upon us. They used him for their victory on the strength of his epaulettes and his sword. He was a successful suit of clothes. Only that

and nothing more. By what right, then, do they now object to another suit of clothes in the person of San-ford, Minister to Belgium, nominated as Minister to Spain?

RECOGNIZING FOREIGN POWERS.

From the N. Y. Times. General Banks has presented, urged, and passed through the House a resolution authorizing the President to recognize the indepen-dence of Cuba whenever he is satisfied that it has been achieved, and that the people have established a government "republican in form." It has not been customary hitherto to prescribe the form of government which any people may see fit to establish, as a condition of our recognizing its existence; but perhaps it may be well enough for us to begin with Cuba, if this novel principle is to be introduced

into the law and practice of nations. But are we not, on this theory, a little premature in sending a Minister to Spain before that country has decided to be a republic? And ought we not to have foreborne to send Mr. Washburne to France until the French people shall have made up their minds to dispense with their Emperor, and establish a government republican in form?" There is, perhaps, some excuse for sending Mr. Motley to England in spite of the form of its government, for we want to satisfy the people of that "effete monarchy" that we are by ne means so anxious to be on good terms with them as they have been led to suppose. But what is to be said in defense of our continuing to maintain relations with Austria and Prussia and Italy and other countries that have not yet seen fit to imitate our example and establish

governments "republican in form?" The least General Banks can do in this matter is to take measures to enlighten these nations as to the practical working of republican institutions in this country, and thus induce them to go and do likewise. Let him arrange to give the people of Paris an inside view of what institutions, republican "in form," have done for the city of New York; -how pure they have made our judiciaryhow high-toned and incorrupt our legislatures have become under their influence—how perfect is our civil service, how zealously our ablest and best men enter into public life and devote themselves to the task of keeping it pure and honorable—how safe are life, liberty, and property, and how much superior are the fruits of our Government to those of any other country in the world; and we can scarcely fail to lead all other nations to follow our example at once and adopt for themselves governments "republican in form," if in neth-

Ing elae.

But if Cuba achieves her independence, and her people establish a government for themselves, we hope we shall acknowledge its existence without insisting that it shall have any specific form. We may do that with Texas or Virginia, or any of our own States,

THE ALABAMA CLAIMS -SKNATOR SUM-NER'S SPEECH. From the N. Y. Herald.

Fifty-four to one! By such a negative vote in the Senate, do we fling back the Alabama claims treaty to the power that insults us with it. Could the people vote upon this action of our Senate they would banish to England the one man whose affirmative vote misrepresents the popular sentiment. The firm and masterly speech of Mr. Summer well echoes the temper of the United States, and he has, in this clear translation of the public feeling and the seizing upon the proper moment to become the na-tional mouthpiece, shown himself to be a true statesman. There may be others who can say "I have the power to strike as heavy a blow."
This may be true, but only genius knows when and where to strike it. Heretofore Mr. Summer has confined his talents so entirely in a single direction that he could be estimated only by the amount of light he showed. In this he has done himself injustice. The slave problem settled, he has for the past three or four years devoted himself to minor questions. This has caused the people to lose sight of him. Now, however, he throws himself to the front, and, well backed by the Senate, showers such trenchant blows upon our hereditary rival as will create some commetion upon the other side of the water. In the tearing up of this treaty Mr. Sumuer

proposes no substitute. Herein we find statesmanship. We can afford to wait. We have in numerous methods stated our grievances to England, and there should be a point where national begging, as practised by Mr. Seward, should give way to national dignity, as represented by Mr. Sumner. The whole country feels this very intensely, South as well as North. The efforts of England to destroy us were not alone aimed at the North. She, under the plea of assistance, also struck at the South—struck at the United States as a nation-and in the face of all previous professions of a high national morality ostensibly aided the slaveholder to destroy our republic. Good sense comes with reaction, and now the hatred against England in the late Rebel States is as great as it is in the North.

In his speech, Mr. Sumner makes a strong argument in opposition to the British concession of belligerent rights to the Rebels. He draws bold and well-sustained differences between belligerency upon the land and belligerency upon the ocean. He shows that British "neutrality" was simply a humbug that did not have the power of existence until English Punic fath called Rebel ocean rights into existence. Rebel cruisers were under all laws nothing but pirates until England, virtually declaring war against us, made them legal men-of-war, making British dockyards their "base of operations" for the destruction of our commerce. Only in the ports of Spain and Great Britain could these English pirates find a breathing place. "The Alabama, whose building was a defiance of law, international and municipal, whose escape was 'a scandal and a reproach,' and whose enlistment of her crew was a fit sequel to the rest, af er being sup-plied with an armament and with a Rebel commander, entered upon her career of piracy. Mark now a new stage of complicity. Constantly the pirate ship was within reach of British cruisers, and from time to time within the shelter of British ports. For six days, unmolested, she enjoyed the pleasant hospitality of Kingston, in Jamaica, obtaining freely the coal and other supplies necessary to her vocation. But no British cruiser, no British magistrate, ever arrested the offending ship, whose voyage was a continuing 'scandal and reproach' to the British Government.' No wonder this pet pirate was watched with tender solicitude by the English people; for she and her consorts, built under the royal eye, carried the hopes of England for the destruction of a commercial rival. No wonder that cheer after cheer went up in the House of Commons as the game swept on and the stakes were raked in by those packing the cards. Well does Mr. Sumner say that the treaty does not speak of national, but of nothing but individual, honor. His argument against this insulting document s potent in the fact which he mentions that the iniquitous Rebel cotton bondnolders' debt went up from zero to ten cents on the dollar when our great American turtle-eater, Reverdy Johnson, signed the treaty. It is to the point that "England was the base of our Rebellion," and it is time that the United States looked this fact boldly in the face.

Machiavelli's "Il Principe" was published just five centuries ago, and the last advocate of its principles in the United States retired to Auburn on the 4th of March, 1869 It is now necessary for the republic to take a republican stand. It cannot live under the practice of monarchical methods of diplomacy. We do nothing that we are afraid to have known; for if we attempt to hide our political motives we shall hide our republicanism with them. What we require is a manly, outspoken, and dignified foreign policy, something which has the ring to it that we find in Mr. Sumner's speech. If the administration is sufficiently broad-brained to understand the temper of the people, from whom all ideas and all directing forces come, it will announce an open policya national policy. Up to the present moment we have never had one. We have simply grown-run wild. Our war gave us a severe consolidation-taught us who were our enemies without and within. We have learned that it is necessary for future protection that we adopt as a principle that no European power shall hold a foot of ground on this continent which may serve as a base of future operations against us. Under this law we will, for the sake of peace, exchange the Alabama claims for Canada and that pestilential thorn which England thrust into our side, Nassau. For the injury that Spain did us we will take Cuba. The administration which is not clearsighted enough to see that the people mean this will make but a sorry figure in the history of the United States. The English and Spanish questions are the prominent ones in the American mind, and with reference to the former, we echo Mr. Summer's sentiment, that 'the attempt to close this great international debate without a complete settlement is little short of puerile."

BORIE AND BOKER.

From the N. Y. World. Philadelphia has been snubbed. Philadelphia mourns. Rachel sits in the Union League, clethed in sackoloth, and refuses to be comforted. Massachusetts may have two seats in the Cabinet, and a couple of first-class mis-sions; but Pennsylvania must be content with Borie in a department of which he knows nothing, and with Curtin in a country where he desires not to go. It is Grant who has said it. Thus he answered a committee of Borie's League who went down to supplicate for the appointment of "the pet Boker" as Minister to Madrid.

Minister to Madrid.

The committee was one which deserved better treatment. It was a masterpiece of political culinary art, a model tota de wan a la financière. It had an unctuous, convivial, prosperous complexion, which it might have been supposed must successfully appeal to the innermost instincts of the Executive. McMichael, Orne, Godey, Claghorn, Peacock—the names read, to one who knows the City of Brotherly Love, like a bill of fare, and around Brotherly Love, like a bill of fare, and around

capable of treason. They were considered | but we have not hitherto felt at liberty to do | them lingers a flavorous association of ideas | with that famous widow of Champagne who has been immortalized in the records of the

Supreme Court of the United States. Such a committee surely should have commended itself to the co-operation of the Naval Secretary (bimself a Loyal Leaguer); but, alas! Borie, like Agamemnon at Aulis, hid his face and refused his countenance. Admiral Porter likewise abstained, though the committee got him into a mast-head and read him these touching lines of the "post

"We felt our vessel sinking fast,

We know our time was brief; "The pumps! the pumps! But they who pumped And fought not, wept with grief.

So sponges, rammers, and hand-spikes,
As men-of-war's-men should,
We placed within their proper racks,
And at our quarters stood."

Porter thought the poetry beautiful, but said that, beyond "davits," he really could not meddle with the Secretary. In vaiu did the committee represent to the President bow picturesque it would be that to the land of Garcilasso and Lope de Vega should be sent the bard who penned the immortal ode to Zogony and the premature ballad of "Hooker's Across." How soothing an influence-like Timotheus over the reeling Alexander, or David on the crazy king-might the bard of Broad street exercise on Spain in its present delirium! He might charm Prim and soothe Serrano into republicanism. Mr. Murdoch was in attendance to recite "The Charge of the Black Brigade," but the President refused to listen.

The League returned discomfited to Philadelphia, and Mr. Boker must hang his harp upon those decidnous trees which, time out of mind, are sacred to poetic disappointment. We trust the fate of Keats and Chatterton may be averted. The name of Philadelphia's laureate must be written in something stronger than water. It won't do to lose the sweetness of our loyal Ovid in diplomacy. So thinks Ulysses, deaf as of old to music. We are sorry for Mr. Boker, who is said to be an estimable gentleman, although he is by all odds Philadelphia's best poet.

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